

From: David Pihl
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/27/02 4:52pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement.

For years, I have observed Microsoft from the perspective of an industry insider, and a consumer. Mr. Gates is often credited with the very notion that software should be a protected intellectual property. Yet Microsoft has consistently violated the intellectual properties of others, such as the developers of Stacker.

Whatever technicalities have allowed Microsoft to steal key elements of the Macintosh operating system, Netscape, DOS, etc., it is clear that they never intended for the rules to apply to them.

If it were up to me, I would order many of Microsoft's existing intellectual properties (copyrights, patents, trademarks, sourcecode, etc.) into the public domain.

This would not prevent them from developing new, innovative technologies which they can patent, copyright, or protect in other ways.

This would also not dissalow Microsoft from selling the products they presently manufacture, as in the case of Caldera, or of Red Hat Linux.

Anyway, it's something to think about.

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